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# Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

SS-20 COA-02 DLOS-06 ACDA-19 L-03 FEA-02 INT-08 SCI-06

STR-08 SAM-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01

/229 W

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R 041545Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7760
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USNMR SHAPE
USLO SACLANT
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OSLO 512

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PBOR NO UR SV
SUBJECT: SOVIET-NORWEGIAN RELATIONS

REF: OSLO 4481

1. IN SEPARATE DICUSSIONS LAST WEEK WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS VIBE, THE AMBASSADOR AND THE DCM OBTAINED FURTHER DETAILS ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI TO THE USSR, MARCH 18-24. IN A SPEECH TO TRADE UNIONISTS ON FEBRUARY 1 ON "OIL IN NORWEGIAN FOREIGN
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POLICY" (DETAILS BY SEPTEL), FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND

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ALSO STAKED OUT THE NORWEGIAN POSITION IN ANTICIPATION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS OVER DIVISION AND CONTROL OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OFF NORTH NORWAY.

2. THERE WERE THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS LINKED TO ACCELERATED PREPARATIONS FOR THE BRATTELI VISIT:

A. CONTINENTAL SHELF. AS ANTICIPATED (REFTEL), THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET LEGAL ADVISER KHLESTOV, AS HEAD OF THE SOVIET MBFR DELEGATION, WILL PRECLUDE ANY NEGOTIATIONS ON DIVIDING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OFF NORTH NORWAY PRIOR TO BRATTELI'S VISIT. VIBE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR ON FEBRUARY 2 THAT, WHEN SOVIET AMBASSADOR ROMANOVSKY RETURNED FROM LEAVE (JANUARY 12) HE BROUGHT A PROPOSAL THAT TALKS BE HELD NEXT MAY, ASSUMING KHLESTOV IS AVAIL-ABLE. NORWAY AGREES THAT, SINCE THE 1970 TALKS WERE HELD IN OSLO, THEY SHOULD BE HELD THIS TIME IN MOSCOW.

B. IN HIS FEBRUARY 1 SPEECH TO TRADE UNIONISTS, FRYDENLUND REMARKED ON NORWEGIAN INTEREST IN REACHING AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON DIVIDING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE BARENTS SEA. HE SAID THAT NORWAY WILL BASE ITSELF IN THE UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS ON THE RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL LAW PRINCIPLE OF THE MEDIAN LINE (EQUIDISTANCE). HE REFERRED TO THE RICH OIL RESOURCES OFF SVALBARD, NOTED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OIL AND DETENTE POLICY IN NORTH NORWAY AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT BOTH SUPER POWERS WOULD SEE THAT IT WAS IN THEIR INTEREST TO HAVE NORWEGIAN "MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL" OVER THIS NORTHERN CONTINENTAL SHELF AREA.

C. SVALBARD. VIBE TOLD DCM AT JANUARY 30 LUNCHEON THAT THE MEETING OF LEGAL EXPERTS (PROPOSED BY NORWAY) TO DISCUSS VARIOUS NOR-WEGIAN ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES ON SVALBARD TO WHICH THE SOVIETS OBJECT (REFTEL) WILL FINALLY CONVENE ON FEBRUARY 11 IN OSLO UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE NEWLY PROMOTED DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS (FORMER MOSCOW HAND) KJELL ELIASSEN. IN ADDITION TO THE SUBJECTS HE HAD MENTIONED EARLIER IN DISCUSSING THESE TALKS, VIBE ALSO MENTIONED IN PASSING TO THE DCM THAT THE TALKS WOULD COVER SOME "QUESTIONS INVOLVING LABOR CONDITIONS" (THERE WAS NO OPPOR-TUNITY TO OBTAIN FURTHER DETAILS).

D. SVALBARD AIRPORT. THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN PRESSING TO COMPLETE
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THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND WERE INCLINED TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT DURING THE BRATTELI VISIT. IN ORDER TO DOWNPLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT, HOWEVER, NORWEGIANS WISH TO FINALIZE THE DETAILS BEFORE THE VISIT; IT WAS CORRESPONDINGLY DECIDED THAT SOVIET DELE-GATION WILL COME TO OSLO ON FEBRUARY 15. NORWAY RESISTED SENDING A DELEGATION TO MOSCOW, AS BEING INAPPROPRIATE FOR A SOVEREIGN POWER ACCORDING PRIVILEGES TO THE SOVIETS.

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E. ARCTIC QUESTIONS. NORWAY HAS EVIDENTLY SUCCEEDED IN BROADENING DISCUSSION OF "COOPERATION" TO ENCOMPASS THE ARCTIC GENERALLY, NOT FOCUSING ON SVALBARD (REFTEL). VIBE SAID THE DIRECTOR OF THE NORWEGIAN POLAR INSTITUTE WILL MEET WITH HIS OPPOSITE NUMBER (HE DID NOT KNOW WHO ON THE SOVIET SIDE) AT THE END OF FEBRUARY TO DISCUSS SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE ARCTIC.

F. OTHER ISSUES. IN DISCUSSION WITH DCM, VIBE SAID THAT THE OTHER AGREEMENTS TO BE SIGNED ARE ESSENTIALLY THOSE HE HAD CITED IN EARLIER CONVERSATION (REFTEL). ON THE QUESTION OF SPECIFIC LANGUAGE ON CONSULTATIONS IN A COMMUNIQUE OR SEPARATE DOCUMENT, VIBE SAID THAT HE EXPECTED THE NORWEGIAN SIDE WOULD STALL, CITING THE PRO-VISIONS FOR BROAD CONSULTATIONS IN VARIOUS FIELDS UNDER DISCUS-SION IN THE EUROPEAN SECURITY TALKS.

3. COMMENT: PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF QUES-TION DURING THE P.M.'S VISIT MAY FACILITATE WHAT PROMISES OTHER-WISE TO BE RATHER DIFFICULT TALKS IN MAY. NORWAY APPEARS DETER-MINED TO ASSERT ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER EXPLOITATION OF THE CONTINEN-TAL SHELF OFF SVALBARD (ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THOSE WHO ARGUE SVALBARD IS AN EXTENSION OF NORWEGIAN SHELF AND THOSE WHO BASE THEMSELVES ON THE FAILURE OF THE 1920 TREATY TO GRANT MINERAL EXPLOITATION RIGHTS SPECIFICALLY ON THE SHELF TO THE SIGNATORY POWERS). THERE MAY BE AN ELEMENT OF WISH-FUL THINKING IN FRYDENLUND'S VIEW, PREVIOUSLY VOICED ALSO BY VIBE, THAT IT IS IN THE GREAT POWERS INTEREST TO GIVE NORWAY SOVERIEGNTY IN THIS SENSITIVE AREA. WHEN DCM ASKED SOVIET AMBASSADOR ROMANOVSKY AT JANUARY 31 DINNER WHETHER SOVIETS AGREED WITH THE NORWEGIAN POSITION, THE ANSWER WAS UNEQUIVOCABLY "NO". ROMANOVSKY SAID IT MAKES AS MUCH SENSE TO ARGUE SVALBARD HAS NO CONTINENTAL SHELF OF ITS OWN, AS TO ARGUE THAT ENGLAND IS AN EXTENSION OF THE FRENCH CONTINENTAL SHELF. HE APPEARED TO FAVOR THE RIGHT OF SIGNATORIES OF THE 1920 TREATY TO EXPLOIT RESOURCES ON SVALBARD'S CONTINENTAL
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SHELF BEYOND THE TERRITORIAL WATER LINE.

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STR-08 SAM-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01

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R 041545Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7762
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USNMR SHAPE
USLO SACLANT
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 OSLO 512

4. SOVIETS ARE DOUBTLESS TORN BY SOME OF SAME CONSIDERATIONS WHICH HAVE MADE INTERPRETATION OF 1920 TREATY DIFFICULT FOR OTHER GOVERNMENTS. THEY TRIED TO POSTPONE DISCUSSSION OF THIS QUESTION UNTIL AFTER LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE, AND WILL BE CONCERNED OVER IMPLICATIONS OF ANY DECISION FOR THEIR LARGER MARITIME INTERESTS. IT IS EVEN CONCEIVABLE, HOWEVER, THAT CONCERN OVER STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF HEAVY FOREIGN PARTICULARLY U.S., INVOLVEMENT IN OIL DRILLING OFF SVALBARD COULD INFLUENCE ULTIMATE SOVIET LOS POSITION. FOR SOVIETS QUESTION MUST BE ONE OF BALANCE OF ADVANTAGE: WHETHER TO INSIST UPON THEIR OWN RIGHT TO DRILL ON CONTINENTAL SHELF OFF SVALBARD, WITH HOPE OF OBTAINING STRATEGIC
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"BLOCKS FROM THE NORWEGIANS; OR TO CONCEDE THE NORWEGIANS SOVEREIGNTY AND THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR BLOCKING ANY DEVELOPMENTS INIMICAL TO SOVIET INTERESTS, BASED ON SOME PRIOR UNDERSTANDING OF TO GROUND RULES WORKED OUT BETWEEN MOSCOW AND OSLO.

5. MOSCOW WILL PROBABLY HOPE IN COURSE OF BRATTELI VISIT TO EXPLORE VARIOUS WAYS THAT IT COULD PROTECT ITS INTERESTS, WITHOUT COMMITTING ITSELF TO ANY SPECIFIC COURSE OF ACTION AT THE MAY TALKS.

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IT WILL WISH TO KNOW, SHOULD IT ACCEPT NORWEGIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OFF SVALBARD, WHAT CONTROL MEASURES THE NORWEGIANS WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENFORCE OVER DRILLING BY FOREIGN COMPANIES. THE NORWEGIANS, IN TURN, WOULD HAVE AN INTEREST IN PROPOSING CERTAIN CONTROL MEASURES IN ORDER TO OBTAIN SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THEIR INTERPRETATION OF THE 1920 TREATY. ON THE QUESTION OF THE ACTUAL DIVISION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE BARENTS SEA, NORWAY IS MAINTAINING THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUIDISTANCE. VIBE ALLUDED, HOWEVER, TO A PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD SOMEWHERE IN THE BUREAUCRACY WHICH WOULD FINESSE CONFLICT OVER THE EXACT DIVISION LINE BY PROVIDING FOR A MEDIAN STRIP IN WHICH SOVIETS AND NORWEGIANS BOTH HAD JURISDICTION TO OPERATE--AND SOME SUCH COMPROMISE APPROACH SEEMS LIKELY TO SURFACE WHEN NEGOTIATIONS GET UNDERWAY. BYRNE

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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** CONTINENTAL SHELF, PETROLEUM, EXPLORATION, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS, EXPLOITATION (NATURAL RESOURCES)
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 04 FEB 1974
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
**Document Number:** 1974OSLO00512
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**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** GS
**Errors:** N/A
**Film Number:** n/a
**From:** OSLO
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
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**Previous Channel Indicators:**
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Reference:** OSLO 4481
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED
**Review Authority:** boyleja
**Review Comment:** n/a
**Review Content Flags:**
**Review Date:** 28 MAY 2002
**Review Event:**
**Review Exemptions:** n/a
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 MAY 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2002 by boyleja>
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**Review Media Identifier:**
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**Secure:** OPEN
**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** SOVIET-NORWEGIAN RELATIONS
**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, NO, UR, SV
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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